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[1999.003]

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s):   Nigel P. Street et al.

Serial No.:   09/480,844

Filing Date: January 10, 2000

Title: System and Method for Implementing a Flexible Data-Driven Target Object Model

Examiner: B. To

Art Unit: 2172

Address to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Applicant submits the following in response to the Office Action mailed May 23, 2002. No amendments have been made, and no new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 4-9, 11-14 and 31-35 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,029,180 to Murata et al. ("Murata"). Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejections based upon the following.

Murata describes a system that implements an extended version of the Hypertext Markup Language (HTML). (Col. 5, lines 31-34.) One of the added features described in Murata is a function allowing for the use of "summary files" that may be displayed in conjunction with a hyperlink. (Col. 6. lines 19-34.) If a user selects the hyperlink, the summary file is displayed. (Col. 6, lines 42-48.) Both the file pointed to by the hyperlink and the summary file may be

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located on a remote server that is accessible over a network, and downloaded to a local (user) machine for display using a browser when selected. (Col. 6, lines 9-19.) In another embodiment, Murata describes an additional function whereby a locally stored HTML file (i.e., a cached filed) may cause an check to determine if the original file has been altered at its server. (Col. 10, lines 33-52.)

Conspicuously absent from Murata, however, is any discussion of object description files, particularly object description files that allow the system described in Murata to provide object data to a client based on the object description file, or any discussion of retrieving a set of object description files corresponding to target system information. Furthermore, Murata does not describe any data retrieval program for use in retrieving data from a target system, or any decoding of object data about the user selected object using the selected one of the set of object description files corresponding to the selected object to form decoded object data. The absence of these features is not surprising, since the system described in Murata is contemplated for use in displaying static files located over a network having a single, pre-defined system architecture (i.e., an IP network). Nowhere does Murata discuss how to implement the described system in the context of using a host development system to acquire information about objects present on a target system.

In contrast to Murata, the method according to the present invention recited in claim 1 includes:

receiving target system information from the target system;

retrieving a set of object description files corresponding to the target system information;

sending to a client a set of objects supported based on the set of object description files retrieved.

Murata nowhere teaches or suggests the retrieving of a set of object description files corresponding to the target system information, or sending to a client a set of objects supported based on the set of object description files retrieved. Claim 1 further includes:

retrieving one of a set of data retrieval programs corresponding to the target system information;

retrieving object data about the selected object using the retrieved one of the set of retrieval programs;

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decoding the object data about the user selected object using the selected

one of the set of object description files corresponding to the selected

object to form decoded object data.

Murata nowhere teaches or suggests retrieving any data retrieval programs corresponding to target system information, or decoding the object data about the user selected object using the selected one of the set of object description files corresponding to the selected object to form decoded object data. As Murata neither teaches nor suggests every element of claim 1, Applicants believe claim 1 to be allowable over Murata.

Applicant thus respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 1. As claims 2, 4-9 and 11-14 depend (either directly or indirectly) from claim 1, and therefore include all of the limitations of claim 1, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of these claims as well.

Also in contrast to Murata, the method according to the present invention recited in claim 31 includes:

retrieving object data from the target system for an object selected by a

client, the retrieval performed by using one of the set of data retrieval programs

corresponding to the target system; and

providing the object data and a presentation format to the client, the object

data and the presentation format based upon one of a set of object description files

corresponding to the object selected by the client.

Murata nowhere teaches or suggests the method steps recited above. As a result, Applicant believes claim 31 to be patentable over Murata. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 31. As claims 32-35 depend (either directly or indirectly) from claim 31, and therefore include all of the limitations of claim 31, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of these claims as well.

The Examiner has also rejected claims 3, 10, and 15-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murata. Claims 3 and 10 are dependent from claim 1, and therefore include all of the limitations of claim 1. As Applicant believes claim 1 to be patentable over Murata (as discussed above), Applicant further believes claims 3 and 10 to be patentable over Murata for the same reasons. Applicant thus respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw

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the rejection as to claims 3 and 10. As to the rejections of claims 15-30, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of these claims based on the following.

As discussed above, Murata describes a system implementing an extension to HTML, which includes additional metatags that allow for additional functions to be implemented in conjunction with an HTML file. One of the additional functions is the display of a "summary file" when a hyperlink is selected by a browser user. Another function is an "update" function that causes a local browser to look to the original location of a locally stored files for any update to the file. Murata does not describe an object database including a set of object description files or a set of data retrieval programs – Murata merely describes a memory used for storage of HTML files and summary files. Murata also does not describe an object interface to retrieve object data from an object in the target system using at least one data retrieval program corresponding to the target system, and provide the object data to the client based on at least one object description file corresponding to the object selected by the client.

In contrast to Murata, the system according to the present invention recited in claim 15 includes:

> an object database including a set of object description files and a set of
> data retrieval programs, the set of object description files including at least one
> object description file corresponding to an object selected by the client, the set of
> data retrieval programs including at least one data retrieval program
> corresponding to the target system.

Murata neither teaches nor suggests such an object database, as Murata nowhere teaches or suggests a set of object description files or a set of data retrieval programs. Additionally, claim 15 includes:

> an object interface coupled to the client and the object database to
> retrieve object data from an object in the target system using the at least one data
> retrieval program corresponding to the target system, and providing the object
> data to the client based on the at least on eobject description file corresponding to
> the object selected by the client.

Murata nowhere teaches or suggests such an object interface, as Murata neither teaches nor suggests retrieving object data from an object in the target system using the at least one data
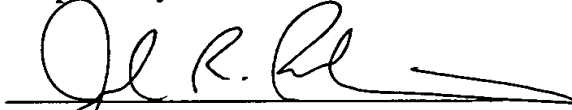
retrieval program corresponding to the target system, or providing the object data to the client based on the at least one object description fire corresponding to the object selected by the client.

As Murata neither teaches nor suggests all the elements of claim 15, Applicant believes claim 15 is patentable over Murata. Applicant thus respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claim 15. Since claims 16-30 depend (either directly or indirectly) from claim 15, and therefore include all of the limitations of claim 15, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 16-30 as well.

In light of the foregoing, claims 1-35 are believed to be in condition for allowance. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, a early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner desire further discussion of Applicant's remarks, Applicant (via the undersigned) is available for telephonic interview at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 9, 2002

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RESPONSE TRANSMITTAL

Enclosed please find a Response to the (non-final) Office Action mailed May 23, 2002.

No fee is believed to be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: _July 9, 2002_

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